A METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A REDUNDANT ARRAY CONTROLLER
MODULE IN A STORAGE ARRAY NETWORK

ABSTRACT

The method establishes redundancy at the array controller module level. The redundancy is established via a state machine, which synchronizes, in lock step, the array controller modules and a switch in a quick loop topology (internal or external to the drive trays). The state machine provides the redundant array controller module multiple paths to the drive trays. These paths allow the redundant array controller the capability of taking over the I/O configuration and I/O access to the drive trays in the case of an array controller module failure (i.e., failover to the redundant array controller module).